

OPEN Arms

June 1999 * Vol 11 Number 6

P.O. Box 845 Mishawaka, IN 46546

8th ANNUAL WALK FOR RACE UNITY, SATURDAY, JUNE 12

Place: Battell Park, 301 West Mishawaka Ave, Mishawaka....the walk will go west on Mishawaka Ave., south on 33rd, east on Pleasant, northeast on Wilson to the park

Time: 11:00 am....gathering, 11:15 am....instructions and walk stepoff, 12:30 pm....Bring your own picnic & enjoy the entertainment following the walk; drinks furnished



The walk for Unity is designed to help us to get to know one another better.

Walk with us as friends and neighbors.

People are different.

People are the same.

Let's celebrate unity in diversity

Sponsored by the Coalition for Humanity and the Albright United Methodist Church: for more info, call 219-289-4467

LILITH FAIR DATES

Tues. Aug 10...Columbus, Ohio....Polaris Amphitheatretickets on sale June 5

Wed. Aug 11...Cincinnati, Ohio... Riverbend Amphitheatre.....tickets available now

Sat. Aug 14...Detroit, Michigan.. Pine Knob.....tickets available now

Sun. Aug 15...Detroit, Michigan.. Pine Knob.....tickets available now

Tues. Aug 17...Cleveland, Ohio....Blossom Music Center.....tickets available now

Wed. Aug 18...Indianapolis, In.....Deer Creek.....tickets available now

Thur. Aug 19...Chicago, Illinois....The World.....tickets available now

Tues. Aug 24...Milwaukee, Wis.....Marcus Amphitheatre.....tickets available now

Listen to artists Tracy Bonham, Shawn Colvin, Sheryl Crow, the Dixie Chicks, Indigo Girls, Queen Latifah, Lisa Loeb, Sarah McLachlan, Liz Phair, The Pretenders, Suzanne Vega and more.....To see who is playing at these concerts, visit www.lilithfair.com, or www.concertline.com, or www.ticketmaster.com



KALAMAZOO WOMYN'S DANCE

By Maze Productions

June 12, 1999.....8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Michigan time

Drumming Circle at 7 p.m.-Bring your own skins & voice!

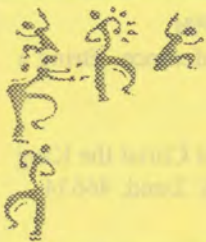
\$6 at the door-smoking area (patio)-Bring your own beverages

In the Grand Hall at the People's Church-Kalamazoo

Directions: US 131, exit 38, west to the first traffic light (next to the highway) & turn right. Church is about 1/2 mile north on the right

Want a hotel room? Call Super 8 616-345-0146 (gives a group rate & is close to the hall)

Need more info: call Maze Productions 616-324-8688



COMMUNITY EVENTS



"SINGLED OUT", June 12, Indy Pride Festival... We will leave Southside Christian Church at 9 AM, spend the day in Indy and head home at 7PM. We will carpool and/or caravan. Pridefest is a one day festival held at Veteran's Memorial Plaza. For more information &/or a ride, call Linda, 219-257-9082 or Lynn: 219-259-6801

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse: 1650 West Foster, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Andersonville, IL 773-973-9934
Saturday, June 5, 7:30 P.M. Deidre McCalla singer/songwriter
Saturday, July 10, 7:30 P.M. Alix Dobkin returns for her yearly July visit

PrideFest '99 is June 12: All are welcome and encouraged to attend... Justice, Inc. is proud to announce that the Indianapolis Pride Festival will once again be held at Veterans Memorial Plaza in downtown Indianapolis on Saturday, June 12. It will last from 10:30am - 7pm. Last year over 12,000 members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allies community attended. More info: 317-465-9126 (before 10 PM), fax 317-632-4362, e-mail paulnalan@aol.com

June 18- 20....Michigan Pride March, Rally & Festival in Lansing, Michigan. The theme this year is "Liberty and Justice for All". If you would like to volunteer call 517-371-8466 or e-mail pride@michiganpride.com

June 17-20...National Women's Music Festival on the campus of Ball State University, Muncie, IN. All indoor festival featuring 10 concerts (Janis Ian, Ferron, Cris Williamson & Tret Fure, Teresa Trull & Barbara Higbie, Ubaka Hill, and more), theater presentations, a comedy concert featuring Lisa Koch, Michelle Balan and Vickie Shaw and over 150 workshops. Guest speakers include Joycelyn Elders (former Surgeon General), Margie Adam and Betty DeGeneres (Ellen's Mom) For more info, write NWMF, PO Box 1427, Indianapolis, IN. 46206 or call 317-927-9355, e-mail: wia@indy.net On the web: <http://www.a1.com/wia> (that's a 1 (one) not an "L")

Sunday, June 27th...Out & About Indiana's 8th Annual "Can You, Canoe? Trip!" meeting at 9am at Tropica Bay, 2301 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis...pitch-in, cook-out afterwards on the patio (Tropica Bay) Questions??? 317-923-8550

July 10...Sweet Honey in the Rock appearing at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN for info call 219-284-4625

August 10 thru 15, Michigan Womyn's Music Festival: Continuing strong after 24 consecutive years, this festival attracts 5-8000 women for a week-long event that includes 40 performances, 200 workshops, a Film Festival, crafts Faire and 650 secluded acres for camping. Artists scheduled include: Suzanne Westenhoefer, Urban Bush Women, Dar Williams, The Drumsong Orchestra with Ubaka Hill, Marga Gomez, Cris Williamson & Tret Fure, Tribe 8 and others. For further information, write to WWTMC, PO Box 22, Walhalla MI 49458, call 616-757-4766 or visit www.michfest.com

August 28,Niles Womyn's Dance 9 pm to 1 am Michigan/ 8pm to 12 midnight Indiana, held at the Pickwick Place, 219 N. 4th Street, Niles, MI.....sponsored by Lavender Rhythm

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP Every Tuesday 7-9 P.M. For Info, write: LSG, P.O. BOX 1612, MISHAWAKA, IND. 46544

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN (NOW) *NOTE CHANGE OF PLACE FOR JUNE 6 to 9 PM*
Potluck & pool party at Penny's house to talk about the year's activities and to discuss the upcoming National Conference. Bring a guest if you want and a dish to pass.....more info: Penny 291-2342

PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Meetings are from 2 to 4 p.m. the 4th Sunday of the month at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 17195 Cleveland Road, South Bend. For Info...Nancy 219-277-2684, or write P.O. Box 4195, S. Bend, 46634

COMMUNITY SPIRIT Area's (St. Joseph, MI) newest social/activity group. Meetings are the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month. More info, call Julie 616-982-1300 or Terry Kuseski at 616-925-7371, or e-mail Julie at firewomn@yahoo.com

KALAMAZOO GAY/LESBIAN RESOURCE CENTER, C.A.R.E.S Building, Lower Level
629 Pioneer Street, Kalamazoo, Mich. 49001 voice mail: (616) 349-4234

THE TREVOR HOTLINE National toll-free suicide hotline for gay and questioning youth. 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Teens can call 1-800-850-8078, where they can talk to trained counselors. All calls are free and confidential.

KALAMAZOO GAY/LESBIAN RESOURCE CENTER, C.A.R.E.S Building, Lower Level
629 Pioneer Street, Kalamazoo, Mich. 49001 voice mail: (616) 349-4234



DANCING IN THE STREETS

by Lee Lynch

Y2K means a lot of things to a lot of people. For me, it will mark thirty years since I became a card carrying member of the Women's Movement. We didn't build bombs or plot the downfall of the government. We didn't subvert kids or put stealth candidates on school boards. We met to unburden angers and confess stifled yearnings. We sang together like Girl Scouts and comforted one another. We parceled out chores and planned demonstrations. We tried to invent alternative housing, we tried to share money, we tried to get along. We held dances.

The hub of all this hopeful activity for me was the Women's Center in New Haven, Connecticut. Housed in two castoff rooms in the basement of a Yale dormitory, we had a couch, pillows, chairs, desks, lamps. We took turns staffing the Center, answering the phone and rudely turning away curious men. We had no useful strategies, only dreams. Our models were created by powerful males and disenfranchised males. Books about communism in China were popular if boring. Dealing and struggling was the phrase du jour and stealing the man's technology a rallying cry as women took up electronic guitars and learned to do their own sound.

While a women's band played "Dancing In the Streets," we drank buckets of Sangria from lined 33 gallon garbage cans. We socialized with one another in lefty working class bars, ignoring the stymied menfolk. We alienated our old friends and our families. The women who were not yet out alternately lectured and hectored male lovers. Lesbians either hated all guys or pitied and befriended the gentle ones. Gay men were dismissed as the lowest of the low because they were thought to belittle women with drag and stereotypical "effeminate" behavior. The Radical Faeries were still but a gleam in the eyes of Harry Hayes and the first stirrings of gay liberation seemed like a ripoff.

When we danced in the streets, church basements, college halls and bars we were dancing to Carol King and Linda Ronstadt. We despised the Rolling Stones, who sang "Under My Thumb."

In great powerful circles we held hands and group-danced to Sly & the Family Stone and the New Haven Women's Liberation Rock Band.

Laughing and conspiratorial, we sang along with Todd Rundgren's "Gotta Get You a Woman" and Stephen Stills' "Love the One You're With."

We made love by candlelight and incense to L.P's of Jethro Tull and Joy of Cooking.

We scorned The Carpenters, never guessing Karen needed to be with us. Elvis was lower than gay men.

We cried for all the lost women when James Taylor sang "Fire and Rain," Neil Young extolled his "Cinnamon Girl" and Simon and Garfunkel wailed, "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

Janis Joplin was a martyr. Joni Mitchell and Aretha Franklin were goddesses. We were goddesses, just discovering the labryis, that double-sided ax with which the Amazons smote their enemies and just discovering the labia, that double sided flower of our sexuality.

In the shadowed women's center we felt the kind of excitement that changes the world. We daringly danced without men. We danced on the campus, in the parks, in moving cars as we drove. We took over straight dance floors.

All of us were exploding with liberated energy. Working nine to five was out of the question. We were in the midst of a revolution simmering with sex and danced till we were sweaty with sweat we never knew we had. We had never heard ourselves speak out loud and now screamed with Janis. We thought Angela Davis of the Black Panthers was the greatest woman in the world and we sang inspirational songs on the Common with our black sisters and brothers. Indian bedspread drapes hid revolutionary women fugitives from the law. Our phone was tapped.

This new breed of women crowded into New York and Boston gay bars, danced in circles and met other women afire like us. The old gays were lower than Elvis. They obviously wanted to be men. The butches oppressed femmes in make up. The libbers secretly wanted to dance like the butches, dirty and possessive. And like the femmes, safe in another woman's arms.

We wore jeans and cotton harem-style pants, long skirts, sandals or ragged high-top sneakers, t-shirts, flannel shirts and peasant blouses. Jewelry was silver or wood and bought in head shops. We grew our hair long or cropped it radically short. The colors of our revolution were bright reds and yellows, mood blues and seductive purples. Everything else was lavender.

We ate vegetables, fruit, brown rice, yogurt, honey bought through our Coop. We split rent so many ways we paid \$40.00 a month each. Our homes were run down houses whose rooms we painted in bright orange or other vibrating hues.

The Women's Center, nestled on the training ground for the future military-industrial leaders, was the place where we invented our feminist selves. It was the witch's mouth which spewed us forth into the world like lit torches. Soon women's centers claimed territory in every large city. We were joyous with our anger and our demands for equality. We danced around bonfires in the night and we were the bonfires.



COURT OF FRIENDS

Okay, all you singles! Looking for that special someone? Here is your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you and what you are seeking in another. Open Arms will run your ad for 2-3 months. You can resubmit or cancel at any time.

Open Arms reserves the right to edit for length and/or content any letters submitted for publication.

Send your ad to: The Court of Friends, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, In. 46546 You will be assigned an ID number. Your letter and ID number will be published in the next issue.

Those wishing to respond to a published single, may do so by enclosing their reply in a **stamped, sealed envelope with the ID number written in PENCIL on the front of the envelope**. Place your reply into another envelope and mail to: The Court of Friends. Your reply will then be addressed to the corresponding single and mailed.

#83.....Looking for new friends. I am single, 53, love walking, swimming, gardening, reading and writing. Like quiet, get to know each other times and letter writing, don't have e-mail.

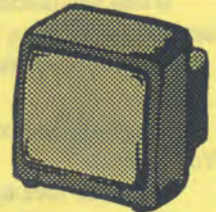


Lesbians Moms needed for research project....

Looking for women who are parenting to complete questionnaires about your relationships with services in the community and to volunteer for face-to-face interviews about your experiences as parents.

Call Lucy Mercier at 517-353-8621 or e-mail: lucy.mercier@ssc.msu.edu

On June 27, 1969, in what is considered the birth of the modern gay civil rights movement, the G/L/Bi/T patrons of the Stonewall Bar in New York City spontaneously united and fought back against chronic police harassment, jeers and arrests. **AFTER STONEWALL**, a 90 minute special airing on PBS Wednesday, June 23, 9 PM ET (check local listings). Narrated by Melissa Etheridge, **AFTER STONEWALL** captures the struggles, defeats and triumphs, through still stigmatized, community. The film records the personal accounts of gays and lesbians who have transformed not only their own lives, but also American society and the world community.



'CAMP' CAMP,

a summer camp in Maine for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered adults.....

The camp will take place in Kezar Falls, Maine from August 23-29. Boston real estate agent Joanie Schwartz signed up to attend as soon as she saw the ad. She liked 'Camp' Camp so much, that she agreed to become co-director. The camp offers participants the chance to stretch, both physically and emotionally. The first two summers, campers have ranged in age from 18 to 72, with most in their late 20's to early 40's: most were single; about 70% men, 30% women. The fee for a week is \$685 per person and includes lodging, meals and all activities: mountain biking, hiking, pottery, crafts, swimming, stained-glass, windsurfing, fishing, dance, volleyball, canoeing, ropes course, sailing, tennis, theater, crafts, softball and more. For additional information, contact Bill Cole toll-free 1-888-924-8380 or visit the web site at <http://www.campcamp.com>

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By Susan Myers, R.N.,
LCSW, HTP, Holistic Health Counselor



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But you must REALLY listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.

2) THE GIFT OF AFFECTION...

Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

3) THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER...

Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."

4) THE GIFT OF A WRITTEN NOTE...

It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

5) THE GIFT OF A COMPLIMENT...

A simple and sincere, "You look great in red," "You did a super job" or "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

6) THE GIFT OF A FAVOR...

Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

7) THE GIFT OF SOLITUDE...

There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.

8) THE GIFT OF A CHEERFUL DISPOSITION...

The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone, really it's not that hard to say, "Hello" or "Thank You." Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed, they make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.



FOR SALE (THROUGH SPRING 1999)

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Call 1-800-631-6277 or visit the web site:
www.oliviatravel.com

IN THE NEWS

EVANSVILLE PRIDE IS JUNE 20

The Tri-State Alliance for Gays and Lesbians will sponsor their 20th annual Pride Picnic on Sunday, June 20, from 2-7pm at Audubon State Park's Lake View Shelter in Henderson, Kentucky (7 miles south of Evansville). TSA will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, and table services. All attending are asked to bring a dish. 450 attended last year's event.

That same weekend, on Friday, June 18, Evansville's Someplace Else will sponsor a Pride Benefit for TSA. All are welcome to attend.

For more information about these events, call TSA at 812-422-5951, e-mail paynter@midwest.net, or check out the group's web site at www.tsagl.com.

TSA YOUTH GROUP PLANS MONTHLY DANCES

After the strong success of the April GLBT TSA Youth Dinner Dance, with 35 youth in attendance, the group has decided to hold monthly dances. These dances will be held on the 2nd Saturday of every month. The Tri-State Alliance Youth Group meets in Evansville every Saturday night from 7-10pm. It is open to all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth under the age of 21. For more information, call (812) 474-4873 or e-mail jgtch@psci.net.



One WOMAN and Her Dog

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Barbara Mueller

(219) 271-6988

Painting/Drywall
Remodeling



OPEN ARMS STAFF

Please send submissions to

Open Arms,

P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN. 46546

e-mail address mbdkjk@juno.com

e-mail address suze3@juno.com

Kaye & Marcia.....219-271-0338

Suze.....219-246-1195

OPEN ARMS MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community. *Open Arms* is discreetly mailed 12 times a year in a security envelope with a P.O. Box return address only. Our mailing list is kept confidential and never given to other publications or special interest groups.

Justice, Inc.

Seeks Volunteers for

Lesbian Health Project Speakers Bureau

Voters Registration Drive

For more information, contact Justice at:

(317) 634-9212 or e-mail us at

lesbianhealth@justiceinc.org

Justice, Inc., PO Box 2387, Indianapolis, IN 46206

Justice, Inc. is Indiana's Statewide Civil Rights Organization

On Gay, Lesbian and HIV issues

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Advertising rates are billed as follows:

For the calendar year beginning January 1, and running 12 months thru December 31, a business card sized insert (2" x3 1/2") is \$10.00. For a limited time insert, the cost is \$1.00 per month

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June 1999

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

BIRTHDAYS

3, Kaye K.
6, Tina M.
8, Darlene D.
11, Patty W.
12, Colette G., Lacy M.
14, Connie M.
16, Marci L.
17, Vickie M.
19, Sherrill D.
21, Ayn C.
23, Laurie S.
24, Debbie D.

Dates to remember:

12, Kalamazoo Womyn's Dance
12, Pride Fest, Indy
18-20, Mich. Pride March, Lansing
17-20, NWMF, Ball State, Muncie, IN
27, 8th Annual Canoe Trip, Indy

ANNIVERSARIES



28, Sue & Suze

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